



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6226.0.55.001 - Persons Not In the Labour Force, Underemployed Workers and Job Search Experience, Australia, February 2014

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 23/02/2015 Final

Summary

Main Features

NOTE: This is the final issue of Persons Not In the Labour Force, Underemployed Workers and Job Search Experience, Australia, February 2014 - 6226.0.55.001, This information is now available in Participation, Job Search and Mobility (cat. no. 6226.0).

More information regarding changes to the supplementary survey programme can be found in Information paper: Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review, 2012 (cat. no. 6107.0), or contact labourforce@abs.gov.au

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Statistics in this release are compiled from the Persons Not In the Labour Force (PNILF), Underemployed Workers (UEW) and Job Search Experience (JSE) survey that was conducted throughout Australia in February 2014 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Persons not in the labour force presents statistics about whether people not in the labour force wanted to work; reasons why they were not actively looking for work, or were not available for work; and their main activity while not in the labour force.

Underemployed workers presents statistics on underemployed workers including the number of hours usually worked, number of preferred hours, steps taken to find work with more hours and difficulties finding work with more hours.

Job Search Experience presents statistics about the job search experiences of unemployed people, in terms of the steps taken to find work, and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. It also provides information about employed people, who started their current job in the previous 12 months or were employed for more than a year in their current job and looked for work.

Care should be taken when comparing the estimates for PNILF, UEW and JSE with previous years as PNILF and UEW were previously collected in September, and JSE was previously collected in July. There is potential seasonal variations in the experiences of some of these groups.

Due to problems experienced with the collection of education data for the JSE populations, this data is not available. For more information, see paragraphs 19–21 of the Explanatory Notes.

PARTICIPATION, JOB SEARCH AND MOBILITY (PJSM) SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY

The ABS has combined the seven regular labour supplementary surveys into two surveys - the Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSM) survey conducted in February each year from 2015 and the Characteristics of Employees (COE) survey conducted each August from 2014.

This survey is an interim collection combining three of the four surveys that form the PJSM survey that were not previously collected in February to provide a bridge to the fully combined PJSM survey. The fourth survey included in the PJSM survey is Labour Mobility which was last run in February 2013.

The PJSM survey will provide information on unemployment, underemployment, labour force participation, job change and job search in the Australian labour market.

The new PJSM supplementary survey integrates key elements of the Labour Mobility, Job Search Experience (JSE), Underemployed Workers (UEW) and Persons Not in the Labour Force (PNILF) surveys. The Labour Mobility survey was run for the last time in February 2013 and the other three surveys were run for the last time in their traditional form in February 2014 before being integrated in February 2015.

PJSM will describe some of the key features and labour market experiences of the economically active population as well as those not in the labour force, and provide insight into:

- job change;
- job mobility;
- job search;
- participation and increasing participation;
- underemployment; and
- marginal attachment.

Combining this range of topics into a single survey and conducting it in a LFS quarter month will enable comprehensive analysis of labour supply and churn, while also maintaining most of the content that was previously available from the separate JSE, UEW, PNILF and Labour Mobility surveys.

More information about the labour household survey program changes is available in the information paper, Outcomes of the Labour Household Survey content Review (cat. no. 6107.0).

ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

INQUIRIES

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact National Information and Referral Service in Canberra on 1300 135 070 or via email to <client.services@abs.gov.au> or contact Labour Supplementary Survey Section on (02) 6252 7206 or via email to <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>. The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any

personal information that you provide to us.

Conceptual Frameworks

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (PNILF) AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER

Persons not in the labour force consists of those who are marginally attached to the labour force, and those who are not. Persons who are marginally attached to the labour force satisfy some, but not all, of the criteria used to classify a person as unemployed.

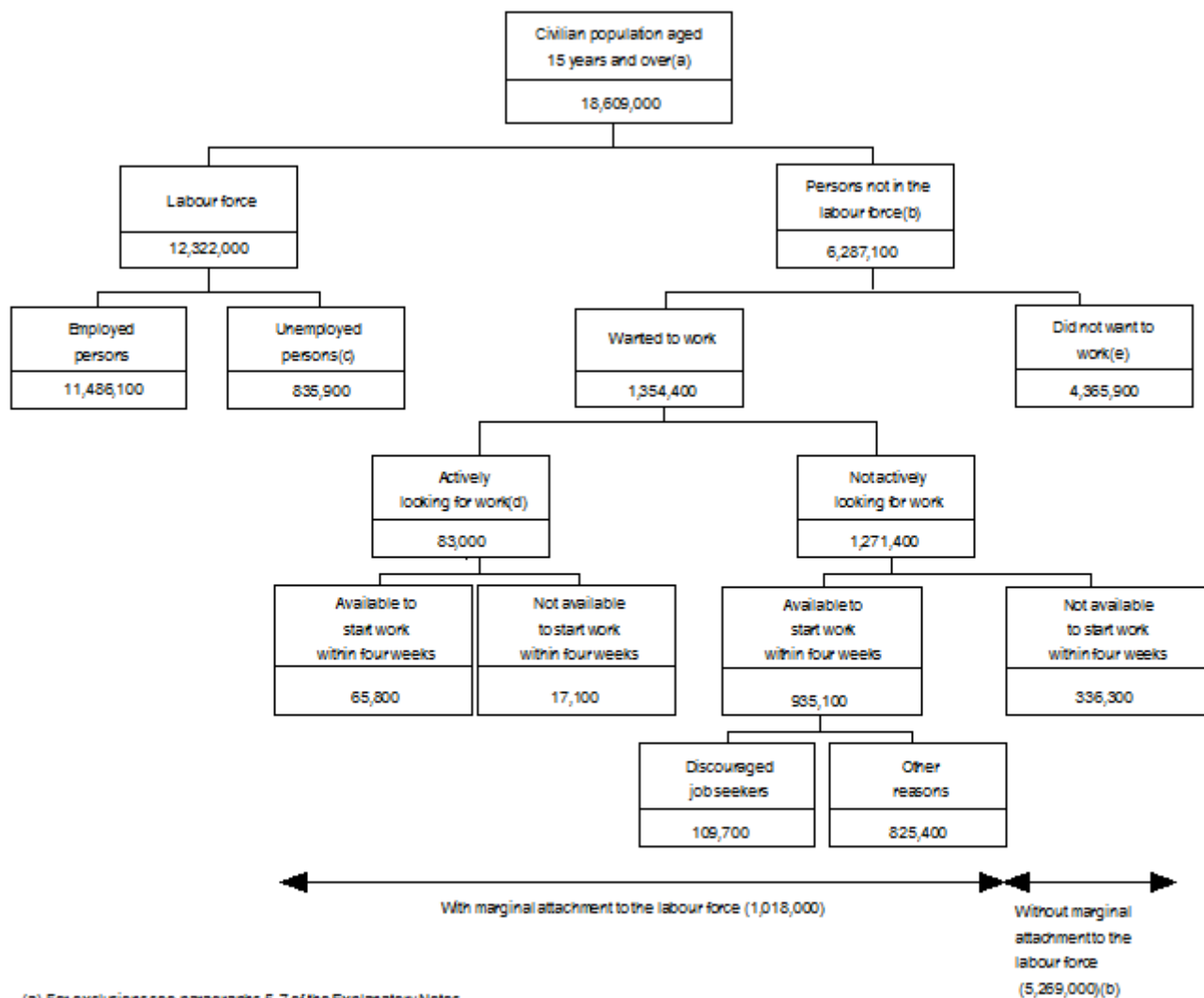
Persons not in the labour force are considered to be marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- wanted to work and were actively looking for work (but, unlike unemployed people, were not available to start work in the reference week); or
- wanted to work and were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.

Persons not in the labour force are not marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- did not want to work; or
- wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks.

The following diagram illustrates the framework for PNILF statistics.



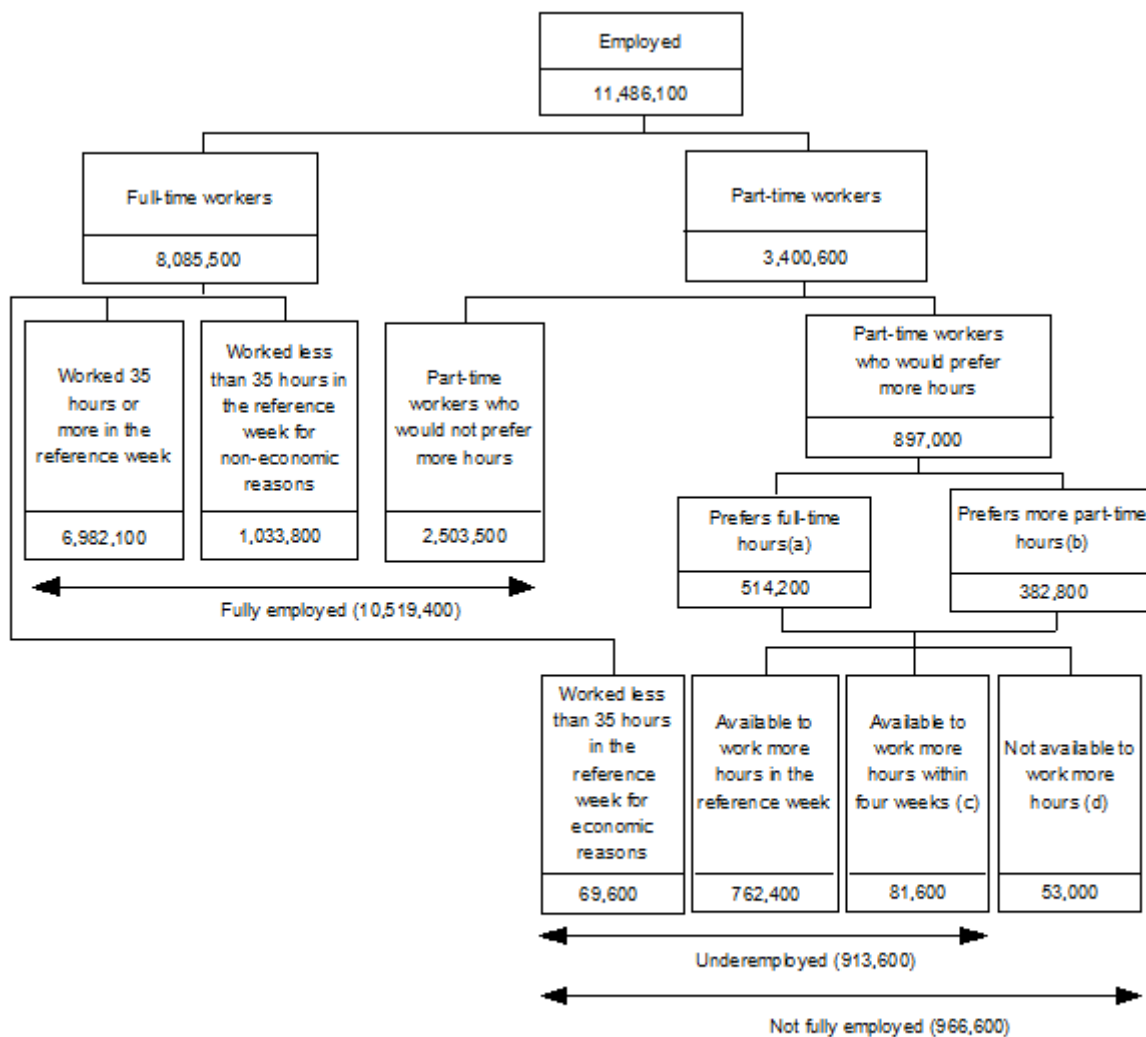
UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS (UEW)

The ABS conceptual framework for underemployment separates employed people into two mutually exclusive groups:

- workers who are considered to be fully employed, comprising:
 - employed people who worked full-time during the reference week (includes people who usually work part-time);
 - employed people who usually work full-time but worked part-time in the reference week for non-economic reasons (including illness or injury, leave, holiday or flextime, and personal reasons); and
 - part-time workers (usually work part-time and did so in the reference week) who would not prefer additional hours of work.
- workers who are not fully employed, comprising:
 - part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours; and
 - full-time workers who worked part-time in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available).

Underemployed workers are those who are not fully employed excluding part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours but were not available to work more hours.

The following diagram illustrates the framework for UEW statistics.



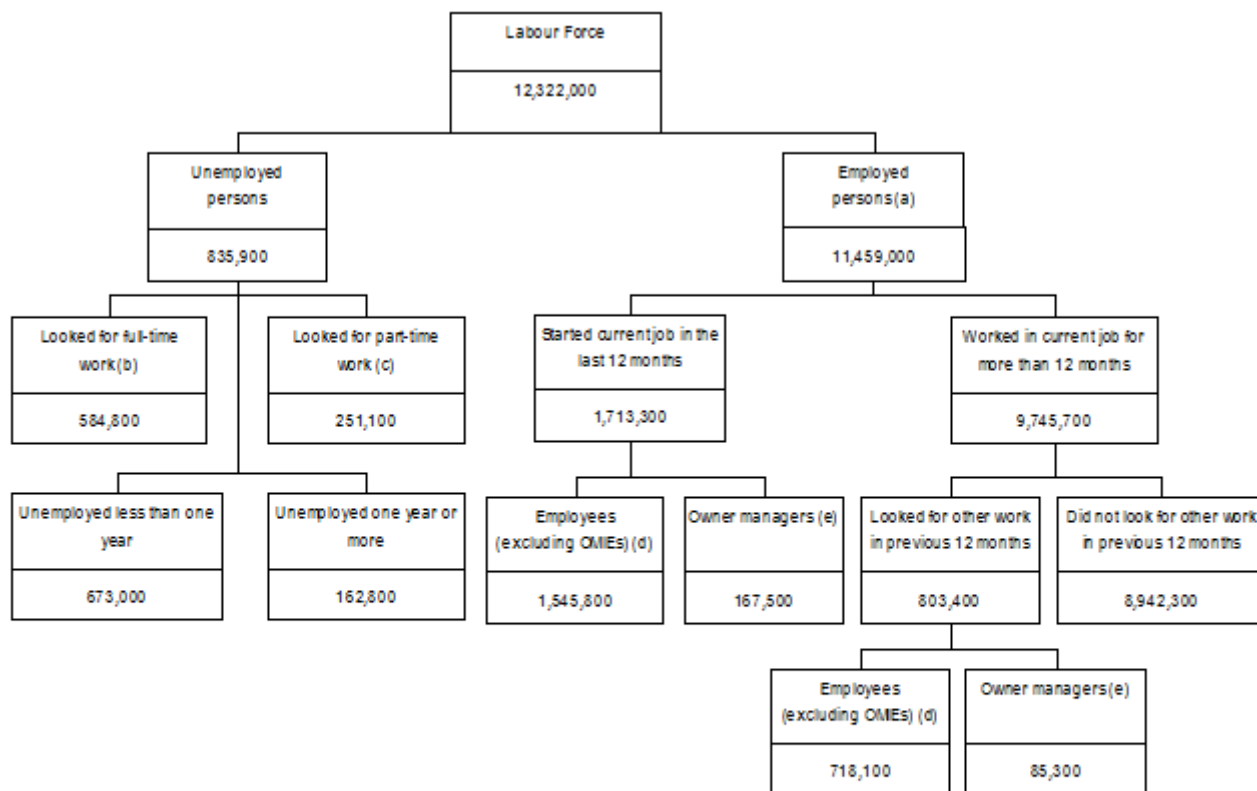
- (a) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are 35 hours or more.
 (b) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are between 1 to 34 hours.
 (c) Available within four weeks but not in the reference week.
 (d) Availability refers to 'in the reference week or within four weeks'.

JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE (JSE)

Job Search Experience presents three mutually exclusive groups of the labour force:

- unemployed persons;
- employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months; and
- persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months.

The following diagram illustrates the framework for JSE statistics.



- (a) Excludes 27,096 persons who were contributing family workers.
 (b) Includes persons who looked for both full-time and part-time work.
 (c) Persons who only looked for part-time work.
 (d) Excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises.
 (e) Includes owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated enterprises.

About this Release

Presents statistics on the characteristics and labour market experiences of persons not in the labour force, underemployed workers, unemployed persons, employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months and persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months. Information is presented for key populations of interest by demographic and labour market characteristics. Statistics are compiled from the Persons not in the labour force, Underemployed workers and Job search experience topics that were conducted throughout Australia in the February 2014 Monthly Population Survey. These topics were conducted in February 2014 as part of a transition to a new Participation, Job Search and Labour Mobility survey, to be conducted annually from February 2015. Some information is provided to assist users to compare results with earlier cycles of the same topics, which were conducted in July and September 2013.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from information collected in this combined survey (containing information formerly collected in the Persons Not In the Labour Force (PNILF), Underemployed Workers (UEW) and Job Search Experience (JSE) surveys), conducted throughout Australia in February 2014 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

2 Information about survey design, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also applies to supplementary surveys, can be found in the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

3 The conceptual frameworks used in the monthly LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

4 The conceptual framework for measures of mean and median earnings aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in the **System of National Accounts 2008**, and Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

SCOPE

5 The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following people:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

6 Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

7 These supplementary surveys were conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in very remote parts of Australia.

8 In addition to those already excluded from the LFS, JSE also excluded single job holders who were contributing family workers.

COVERAGE

9 The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in February 2014. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

SAMPLE SIZE

10 Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

11 These surveys are fully based on the sample introduced after the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. For more information, see the Article in the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

12 The sample for PNILF, UEW and JSE are a sub-sample of 33,641 private dwelling households and special dwelling units included in the ABS monthly LFS in February 2014. The final sample on which estimates are based is composed of:

- 14,389 persons aged 15 years and over for PNILF;
- 26,052 persons aged 15 years and over for UEW; and
- 7,327 persons aged 15 years and over for JSE, who were:
 - unemployed in February 2014; or
 - employed in February 2014 who started their current job in the previous 12 months; or
 - employed in February 2014 for more than a year who looked for work in the previous 12 months.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

13 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information, see the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and effective processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

14 The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month (February) and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

CLASSIFICATIONS USED

15 Country of birth data are classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of

Countries (SACC), 2011 (cat. no. 1269.0).

16 Occupation data are classified according to ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2 (cat. no. 1220.0).

17 Industry data are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0) (cat. no. 1292.0).

18 Educational attainment data are classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for more information.

NOTES ON ESTIMATES FOR JSE

19 Due to problems experienced with the collection of education data for the 2014 Job Search Experience component of this survey, this data is not available.

20 This has resulted in two tables not being presented that were previously released in the JSE publication:

- Table 9 - Level of highest non-school qualification, by sex, by duration of current period of unemployment; and
- Table 12 - Level of highest non-school qualification, by sex, by duration of looking for work before current job.

21 The data item Level of highest non-school qualification presented in Tables 1, 3 and 10 of JSE publications is also not available from this survey.

22 Education questions will not be asked in the new Participation, Job Search and Mobility survey (cat. no. 6226.0), instead have been collected as part of the LFS from July 2014.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

23 The Labour Force Survey estimates and estimates from the supplementary surveys, are calculated in such a way as to sum to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are based on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. Generally, revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS following the final rebasing of population estimates to the latest five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, or when the need arises. However, the estimates from the supplementary surveys are not normally revised to reflect the latest benchmarks.

24 Changes to the LFS population benchmarks impact primarily on the magnitude of the Labour Force Survey estimates (i.e. employment and unemployment) that are directly related to the underlying size of the population. For more details on population benchmarks, see the Explanatory Notes in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), and for details about the revisions made, see the article in the January 2014 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and the article in the November 2012 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

25 From January 2014, Labour Force Estimates have been compiled using population

benchmarks based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. At the time of publication, this issue's estimates are comparable with the published labour force estimates for February 2014.

26 Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the monthly LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

27 Care should be taken when comparing the estimates for PNILF, UEW and JSE with previous years as PNILF and UEW were previously collected in September, and JSE was previously collected in July. Collection of data from this combined survey was undertaken in February.

28 From December 2012 to April 2013, the ABS conducted a trial of online data collection for the LFS including the supplementary surveys. Respondents in one rotation group (i.e. one-eighth of the survey sample) were offered the option of self completing their survey questionnaire online instead of via face-to-face or telephone interview. From May 2013, the ABS expanded the offer of online collection to each new incoming rotation group. For more information see the article in the April 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0). No statistical impact has been identified to date.

Comparability with previous Persons Not In the Labour Force surveys

29 Persons Not in the Labour Force Surveys conducted up to and including September 1987 included all people aged 15 years and over. From September 1988 to September 2004, the survey excluded all people aged 70 years and over.

30 The scope of the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey was expanded in September 2005 to include all people aged 15 years and over. This change resulted in about 1.6 million extra people coming within the scope of this survey. Users need to exercise caution when comparing the estimates prior to 2005 with subsequent years. Direct comparisons should only be made where the same age ranges can be applied.

31 From September 2006, estimates of the number of people not in the labour force because they were caring for children include people whose youngest child was aged 12 years and under. Previously, questions relating to the care of children were only asked of people with children aged 11 years and under. This change was made to ensure consistency with other ABS surveys. Users need to exercise care when comparing the estimates in PNILF table 9 of this publication with publications prior to September 2006.

32 Following a review of the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey, a number of changes were implemented in the 2007 cycle. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 with previous years data.

33 Between September 2001 and September 2006, people who reported in the LFS that they were Permanently not intending to work were not asked questions about wanting to work and looking for work in the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey. As such, these people were classified as Did not want to work. It is likely, however, that if they had been asked these questions, then some of these people may have been classified differently and may have been included in one of the Wanted to work categories. From September 2007, people who specified that they were Permanently not intending to work were asked

questions about wanting to work and looking for work. As a result of this change, there has been a break in time series. People who reported that they were permanently unable to work are not asked questions about wanting to work or looking for work. For these people, information is obtained about their last job and their main activity.

34 Prior to September 2007, the data items, All reasons for not actively looking for work, Main reason for not actively looking for work and Main reason not available to start work within four weeks included the category Own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy. From September 2007, this category has been split into three separate categories: Own short-term illness or injury, Own long-term health condition or disability and Pregnancy.

35 Prior to September 2007, the data items, Reason for ceasing last job and Main activity when not in the labour force included the categories Own ill-health or injury and Own disability or handicap. From September 2007, these categories were renamed to ensure they were consistent with those in other data items and have been collected as Own short-term illness or injury and Own long-term health condition or disability, respectively. While the way interviewers were instructed to code the responses to the relevant categories did not conceptually change, the renaming has caused a break in time series.

36 From September 2007, a new data item, All reasons not available to start work within four weeks, has been collected in addition to Main reason not available to start work within four weeks.

37 Prior to September 2008, the data item Main activity when not in the labour force included the category Home duties or caring for children. From September 2008, this category has been split into two separate categories, Home duties and Caring for children. Care should be taken in interpreting the data in these categories because some people with young children indicated that Home duties was their main activity when not in the labour force, rather than Caring for children.

38 From September 2009, a new response category, Believes ill-health or disability discourages employers, has been included in the data items Main reason not actively looking for work and All reasons not actively looking for work.

39 From September 2009, Believes ill-health or disability discourages employers and with No jobs in suitable hours are included with other responses to derive the population group Discouraged job seekers. Prior to September 2009, No jobs in suitable hours was included in the category Other. As a result of this change, there is a break in time series and users need to exercise care when comparing estimates from 2009 with previous years data.

40 From September 2009, the method used to determine whether a respondent prefers full-time or part-time work changed. In 2009, respondents were asked the number of hours they would prefer to work, whereas in previous years, they were asked whether they would prefer to work full-time or part-time. A new data item Preferred number of hours is available. Both data items apply only to people who intend to enter the labour force in the next 12 months. As a result of this change, there is a break in time series and users need to exercise care when comparing the estimates in PNILF table 5 of this publication with publications prior to September 2009.

Comparability with previous Underemployed Workers surveys

41 In September 2008, there was a substantial increase in the number of part-time workers who preferred more hours and in underemployed workers. This was due to a change in the question being asked of part-time workers. From September 2008, part-time workers were

asked "Would you prefer to work more hours than you usually work?". In previous surveys part-time workers were asked "Would you prefer a job in which you worked more hours a week?". The question was altered to be consistent with the LFS and is now broader and more inclusive of people's situations as it relates to a preference for more hours of work.

42 In 2008, an additional 115,800 people were classified as part-time workers who preferred more hours and an additional 131,500 people were classified as underemployed workers. Users need to exercise care when comparing the number of part-time workers who preferred more hours and unemployed workers from 2008 onwards with previous releases because of this break in the series.

43 From July 2004, a change was made to the category Considered too young or too old by employers for the items All difficulties in finding work with more hours and Main difficulty in finding work with more hours. The category has been split into Considered too young by employers and Considered too old by employers.

Comparability with previous Job Search Experience surveys

44 From July 2004, a change was made to the category Considered too young or too old by employers for the data items All difficulties in finding work and Main difficulty in finding work. The category has been split into Considered too young by employers and Considered too old by employers. Data for Considered too young by employers are not published separately in all relevant tables, but are available on request.

45 The JSE supplementary survey was redesigned in 2011 to broaden the scope of existing JSE populations by introducing two new population groups:

- Owner managers who started their current business in the previous 12 months; and
- Persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months.

46 In conjunction with these changes, a number of additional data items are now presented in this publication and/or available on request. For more information see Appendix 1: Job Search Experience Survey Redesign in the July 2011 edition of Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0).

47 For the July 2013 survey, all data was collected from any responsible adult (ARA) in the household at the time of interview. The ARA responded on behalf of all people in the household who had taken steps to find work. Prior to 2013, information about job search experience and steps taken to find work was obtained via a personal interview with each relevant person in the household.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Persons Not In the Labour Force

48 PNILF was first conducted in May 1975 and again in May 1977. From 1979 to 1987 the survey was collected twice a year (March and September). From 1988 to 2013 it was conducted annually in September. Results of previous surveys were published in:

- Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0); and
- Standard data service Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995 (available in hardcopy only).

From February 2015, it will be collected annually in PJSM.

Underemployed Workers

49 UEW was conducted in May 1985, 1988 and 1991. In 1994, the survey became an annual survey and until 2013 was collected each September. Results of previous surveys were published in *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (cat. no. 6265.0); and the standard data service **Underemployed Workers, Australia** (cat. no. 6265.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995. From February 2015, it will be collected annually in PJSM.

Job Search Experience

50 JSE was conducted annually in July from 2002 to 2013. Results of similar surveys on the job search experience of unemployed people conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991, and annually from July 1992 to July 2001 were published in various issues of *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0). Information on people who had started work for an employer for wages or salary during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week was collected in June 1986 and two-yearly from July 1990 to July 2000 and was published in *Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6245.0). From February 2015, it will be collected annually in PJSM.

NEXT SURVEY

51 As foreshadowed in the information paper, *Outcomes of the Labour Household Survey content Review* (cat. no. 6107.0), this issue was conducted in February 2014 as part of a transition to a new **Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia** (cat. no. 6226.0), to be conducted annually from February 2015.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

52 ABS surveys draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the **Census and Statistics Act, 1905**.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

53 ABS publications which may also be of interest include:

- Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0);
- Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation (cat. no. 6239.0);
- Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0);
- Labour Force Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6206.0);
- Labour Mobility, Australia (cat. no. 6209.0);
- Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001);
- Microdata: Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia, 2008-2010 (cat. no. 6602.0);
- Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0);

- Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0);
- Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0); and
- Working Time Arrangements, Australia (cat. no. 6342.0).

54 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Active steps taken to find work (Job Search Experience (JSE))

Active steps taken by unemployed persons in their search for work during the current period of unemployment include:

- wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work;
- answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper;
- answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet;
- answered an advertisement for a job on notice boards;
- had an interview;
- contacted friends or relatives;
- advertised or tendered for work;
- registered with a Job Services Australia provider; or
- registered with any other employment agency.

Actively looking for work (Persons Not in the Labour Force (PNILF))

People who were taking active steps to find work. Active steps comprise:

- writing, telephoning or applying to an employer for work;
- answering an advertisement for a job;
- checking notice boards;
- being registered with Centrelink as a job seeker;
- checking or registering with any other employment agency;
- advertising or tendering for work; and
- contacting friends or relatives.

Age of youngest child

Age of the youngest child, 12 years and under, in the household.

All difficulties in finding work

All difficulties in finding work experienced by unemployed persons during the current period of unemployment.

All steps taken to find work

All steps taken by unemployed persons in their search for work during the current period of unemployment.

All steps taken to attain a job

All steps taken to attain a job by persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months. Refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job.

Available to start work

People who were available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks subsequent to the interview.

Available to start work within four weeks

People who were available to start work within four weeks or, for people with children aged 12 years and under, could start work within four weeks if suitable child care was available.

Bachelor Degree or above

Bachelor Degree or above includes qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level and Bachelor Degree level.

Centrelink

Centrelink is a statutory authority responsible for delivering a range of Commonwealth Government services, including the registration of persons for job search assistance and income support.

Certificate not further defined

Survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0), Level of Education classification.

Contributing family workers

People who work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

Current job

A job that a person is currently working in and has lasted, or is likely to last, for a period of two weeks or more. For persons who have commenced more than one job in the previous 12 months, it is the job most recently started.

Did not want to work

People who were not classified as employed or unemployed who answered no when asked if they would like a job.

Discouraged job seekers

People with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available

to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered too young by employers;
- considered too old by employers;
- believes ill health or disability discourages employers;
- lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience;
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background;
- no jobs in their locality or line of work;
- no jobs in suitable hours; and
- no jobs at all.

Duration of current period of insufficient work

For full-time workers who worked fewer than 35 hours in the reference week due to economic reasons, refers to the number of weeks they have been working fewer than 35 hours a week.

For part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, refers to the number of weeks they have been wanting to work more hours.

As periods of insufficient work are recorded in full weeks and rounded down, this results in a slight understatement of duration.

Duration of current period of unemployment

The period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.

Duration of looking for work before current job

The number of weeks or years that employed persons were looking for work before being offered their current job or starting their own business. For employed persons who had worked before, it includes any time they were looking for work before leaving their previous employer.

Economic reasons

Economic reasons for full-time workers having worked fewer than 35 hours in the reference week are:

- there was no work or not enough work available, e.g. due to material shortages;
- they were stood down; or
- they were on short time.

Employed

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or

business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or

- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employee (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs)) job starters

Persons, excluding those who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without employees, who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind and started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Employees

People who:

- worked for a public or private employer; and
- received remuneration in wages, salary, or are paid a retainer fee by their employer and worked on a commission basis, or for tips or piece rates or payment in kind; or
- operated their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

Employers

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hire one or more employees.

Employment type in current job (JSE)

Classifies employed persons according to the following categories on the basis of their current job:

- Employees (excluding OMIEs);
 - With paid leave entitlements;
 - Without paid leave entitlements;
- Owner managers of incorporated enterprises;
- Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

Employment type in main job (JSE)

For this survey, employment type in main job classifies employed persons according to the

following categories on the basis of their main job (that is, the job in which the most hours were usually worked):

- Employees (excluding OMIEs);
- Owner managers of incorporated enterprises;
- Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises;
- Contributing family workers.

Family

Two or more people, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Family reasons for not actively looking for work

Includes ill health of someone other than themselves, caring for children and other family considerations.

First job ever held lasting two weeks or more

Refers to employees (excluding OMIEs) who had never worked for two weeks or more before starting their current job.

Full-time preference (PNILF)

People who preferred to work 35 hours or more a week. For PNILF, full-time preference is derived from the preferred number of hours of persons who intended to or might enter the labour force in the next 12 months.

Full-time or part-time status of last job

The perception of people of whether they worked full-time or part-time in their last job.

Full-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Fully employed workers

Employed people who:

- worked full time during the reference week (including people who usually work part time but worked full time in the reference week); or
- usually work full time but worked fewer than 35 hours in the reference week for non-economic reasons (such as illness or injury, leave holiday or flextime, or personal reasons); or
- part-time workers who would not prefer to work additional hours.

Future starters

People waiting to start, within four weeks of the end of the reference week, a new job that they have already obtained (and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then). Under International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines, these persons do not have to be actively looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Had an interview with an employer

Includes face-to-face and phone interviews.

Had a job to go to

People who were waiting to start a job, but would not be starting within four weeks. Also includes people who had a job but, up to the end of the reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

Had worked before

Refers to employees (excluding OMIEs) who had worked before and were either out of work or changed their employer before starting their current job.

Incorporated enterprise

An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce both goods and services. In this publication, industry refers to ANZSIC Division as classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0) (cat. no. 1292.0).

Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months

The intention of people to work or look for work in the 12 months following the interview.

Interstate

Refers to whether people were prepared to move to another state or territory if offered a suitable job.

Intrastate

Refers to whether people were prepared to move to another part of their state or territory if offered a suitable job.

Job

Any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

Job Network/Job Services employment agency

In July 2009, the Job Network was replaced by Job Services Australia. The Job Network/Job

Services Australia is a national network of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment placement services to the community. Job seekers who are registered with Centrelink for job search assistance are able to contact a Job Services Australia provider in their area to receive this service.

Job starters

Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Labour force

The civilian population is split into two mutually exclusive groups: the labour force (employed and unemployed people) and persons not in the labour force. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Left a job

People who are classified as voluntarily ceasing their last job.

Level of highest educational attainment

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

Years 12, 11 and 10 include people who are currently undertaking school study (See Appendix 1 for more information).

Level of highest non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Masters Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels and not further defined. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

Long-term unemployed

Persons whose duration of current period of unemployment is 12 months or more.

Looking for work with more hours

Looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks up to the end of the reference week.

Lost a job

People who are classified as involuntarily ceasing their last job.

Main activity when not in the labour force

The main activity of people who are not in the labour force since they last worked or looked

for work (or in the last 12 months if they haven't worked in the last year).

Main difficulty in finding work

The main difficulty in finding work experienced during the current period of unemployment.

Main English-speaking countries

The list of main English-speaking countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America.

Main job

The job in which most hours are usually worked.

Marginal attachment to the labour force

People who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criterion to be classified as unemployed; or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

For more information see article Understanding the Australian Labour Force Using ABS Statistics in the February 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (6202.0).

Mean duration of current period of unemployment

The duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group.

Mean duration of insufficient work

The mean duration of insufficient work is obtained by dividing the total number of weeks a group has had insufficient work by the number of people in that group.

Mean preferred number of extra hours

The mean preferred number of extra hours is obtained by dividing the total preferred number of extra hours reported by a group by the number of people in that group.

Median duration of current period of unemployment

The duration which divides unemployed persons into two groups of equal size, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the mid point, and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

Median duration of insufficient work

The median duration of insufficient work is obtained by dividing underemployed workers into two equal groups, one comprising people whose duration of insufficient work is above the mid point, and the other comprising people whose duration is below it.

Non-economic reasons

Non-economic reasons for full-time workers having worked fewer than 35 hours in the reference week include:

- holiday, flextime or study leave;
- own illness or injury or sick leave;
- standard work arrangements, shift work or rostered day(s) off;
- on strike, locked out or took part in an industrial dispute;
- bad weather or plant breakdown;
- began, left or lost job during the reference week; and
- personal reasons.

Not available to start work

Refers to people who were not available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks following the interview.

Not fully employed

People who are not fully employed comprise part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, and full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons.

Number of offers of employment

The number of separate offers of employment received during the current period of unemployment.

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months

The number of times persons reported being out of work and looking for a job during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.

Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication occupation refers to Major Group as defined by ANZSCO - Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2 (cat. no. 1220.0).

Occupation of last job

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication, occupation refers to Major Group as defined by ANZSCO - Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2 (cat. no. 1220.0) and relates to persons who have had a job less than 20 years ago only.

Own account workers

Persons who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engaged independently in a profession or trade, and hired no employees.

Owner managers

Persons who work in their own business, with or without employees, whether or not the business is an incorporated enterprise. Comprises owner managers of incorporated enterprises and owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

Owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs)

Persons who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These persons are classified as employees under status in employment.

Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises (OMUEs)

Persons who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession. These persons are classified as employers under status in employment if their business has employees, or own account worker if they do not.

Part-time preference

People who preferred to work one to 34 hours a week. For PNILF, part-time preference is derived from the preferred number of hours of persons who intended to or might enter the labour force in the next 12 months.

Part-time workers

Employed people who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work during the reference week.

Permanently not intending to work

People aged 65 years and over who said they were permanently not intending to work.

Permanently unable to work

This category is used only if a person volunteers that he/she or another member of the household is permanently unable to work.

Personal reasons for not actively looking for work

Includes own short-term illness or injury or long-term health condition or disability, pregnancy, attending an educational institution, had no need to work, welfare payments or

pension may be affected, moved house or on holidays.

Persons in the labour force

People who were classified as being in the labour force, that is, either employed or unemployed.

Persons not in the labour force

People who were not in the categories employed or unemployed as defined.

Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but not actively looking for work

People who wanted to work and:

- were not actively looking for work because they were caring for children, but were available to start work within four weeks; or
- were not actively looking for work and reported that they were not available to start work within four weeks because they were caring for children.

Preferred number of hours

The number of hours persons would like to work each week.

Preferred number of extra hours

The number of extra hours a week an underemployed worker would have preferred to work.

Preferred total number of hours

The total number of hours per week an underemployed worker would have preferred to work.

Reasons for turning down job offers

Classifies reasons for turning down job offers in current period of unemployment according to the following categories:

- Unsuitable Job Conditions
 - Unsatisfactory pay/conditions
 - Not in locality or line of work
 - Hours unsuitable
 - Unwilling to move state/city
 - Too far to travel
- Personal Reasons
 - Own short-term illness or injury
 - Own long-term health condition or disability
 - Pregnancy
 - Welfare payments/pension may be affected
 - Returned to study
- Family Reasons
 - Childcare
 - Ill health of other than self

- Other
 - Waiting to start another job/starting new business
 - Other reasons
 - Did not know.

Status in employment (JSE)

Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

Status in employment of last job (PNILF)

People who had a job in the last 20 years classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, contributing family workers or unpaid voluntary workers in their last job.

Suitable job

A suitable job is:

- any job for which the person is qualified (if applicable), is capable of performing and which provides adequate job conditions (including pay, hours, travel to work, etc.).
- it is a job that would be accepted by the person irrespective of whether a move was required.

Time since last job

The elapsed time since ceasing the last job.

Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months

The total number of weeks a person has been both out of work and looking for work at the same time during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.

Underemployed workers

Underemployed workers are employed people who would prefer, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours and were available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; and
- full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people would prefer to work full time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Underemployment rate

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unemployed looking for full-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work and were available for work in the reference week;
- were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Unemployed looking for part-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new part-time job.

Usual number of hours

The number of hours usually worked in a week.

Usually worked full-time hours

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs).

Usually worked part-time hours

Employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs).

Wanted to work

People not in the labour force who were not actively looking for work who answered yes or maybe when asked if they would like a job, as well as those people not in the labour force who were actively looking. It is assumed those people actively looking want a job.

Whether had prior knowledge that job was available

Whether employed persons knew that a job was available with their current employer before making an approach to that employer for a job.

Whether had ever worked for two weeks or more

Whether unemployed persons had previously held a job lasting two weeks or more.

Whether out of work prior to starting job

Whether employed persons were not employed immediately prior to starting their current job.

Whether preferred to work more hours than usually worked

Whether employed persons who usually worked part-time hours, preferred to work more hours.

With paid leave entitlements

The entitlement of employees (excluding OMIEs) to either paid holiday leave or paid sick leave (or both) in their current job. Persons employed in their own business or who were contributing family workers were not asked questions about paid leave entitlements.

Without paid leave entitlements

Employees (excluding OMIEs) who were not entitled to, or did not know whether they were entitled to, paid holiday leave and paid sick leave in their current job.

Classification of education (Appendix)

APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

In 2001, the ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ) (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Level of Highest Educational Attainment can be derived from information on Highest Year of School Completed and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification. The derivation process determines which of the school or non-school attainments will be regarded as the highest. Usually the higher ranking attainment will be self-evident, but in some cases some levels of Secondary Education are regarded, for the purposes of obtaining a single measure, as higher than some Certificate level non-school attainments.

The following decision table, based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0), is used to determine which of the responses to questions on Highest Year of School Completed (coded to ASCED Broad Level 6) and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification (coded to ASCED Broad Level 5) will be regarded as the highest. It is emphasised that this table was designed for the purpose of obtaining a single value for the output variable Level of Highest Educational Attainment and is not intended to convey any other ordinality.

Decision Table: Level of Highest Educational Attainment							
ASCED LEVEL OF EDUCATION CODES	Certificate n.f.d. (500)	Certificate III or IV n.f.d. (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II n.f.d. (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education n.f.d. (600)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education n.f.d. (610)	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.
Year 12 (611)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education n.f.d. (620)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as Certificate III. However, if the same person answered Certificate n.f.d. to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as Certificate not further defined. The output would then be Year 12. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is higher than the other.

Populations and data items list (Appendix)

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Persons Not in the Labour Force (PNILF), Underemployed Workers (UEW) and Job Search Experience (JSE) survey. This appendix lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. Full details of these data items are available from the Downloads tabs of this issue in Excel spreadsheets, as Data Cube 1 - PNILF 2014 Data Items List, Data Cube 2 - UEW 2014 Data Items List and Data Cube 3 - JSE 2014 Data Items List.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the person in the survey to whom the data item relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth(2)). The data items under the Demographic and Personal Characteristics are available for PNILF, UEW and JSE.

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact National Information and Referral Service in Canberra on 1300 135 070 or via email to <client.services@abs.gov.au> or contact Labour Supplementary Survey Section on (02) 6252 7206 or via email to <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>. The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Population 1

Persons not in the labour force

Population 2

Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work

Population 3

Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force

Population 4

Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks but were not actively looking for work

Population 5

Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers

Population 6

Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks

Population 7

Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work

Population 8

Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job

Population 9

Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force

Population 10

Persons not in the labour force whose last job was less than 20 years ago

UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS

Population 1

Employed persons

Population 2

Full-time workers

Population 3

Part-time workers

Population 4

Part-time workers who would prefer more hours

Population 5

Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours in the reference week or within four weeks

Population 6

Underemployed part-time workers

Population 7

Underemployed workers

JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE

Population 1

Unemployed persons

Population 2

Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months

Population 3

Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises) who started their current job in the previous 12 months

Population 4

Owner managers who started their current business in the previous 12 months

Population 5

Persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months

Data items		Populations
DEMOGRAPHIC AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS		
1	State or territory of usual residence	All
2	Area of usual residence	All
3	Region of usual residence	All
4	Sex	All
5	Social Marital status	All
6	Relationship in household	All
7A	Country of birth and period of arrival	All
7B	Country of birth (1)	All
7C	Country of birth (2)	All
8	Age group (years)	All
PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE		
9	Full-time study status (15-24 year olds)	All
10A	Persons not in the labour force summary variable	1,8,10
10B	Marginal attachment summary variable	3
11	Whether wanted to work	1,8,10
12	Whether looked for work in the last 12 months	All
13	Main activity when not in the labour force	All
14A	Time since last job	All
14B	Whether had a job in the last 20 years	All
15	Reason for ceasing last job	All
16	Occupation of last job	All
17A	Status in employment in last job (1)	All
17B	Status in employment in last job (2)	All
18	Full-time or part-time status in last job	All
19A	Intention to enter the labour force	All
19B	Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months	All
20	Full-time or part-time preference	All
21	Main reason for not actively looking for work	4
22	All reasons for not actively looking for work	4
23	Main reason not working due to caring for children	7
24	Main reason not available to start work within four weeks	6
25	All reasons not available to start work within four weeks	6

26	Age of youngest child	7
27	Number of children	7
28	Preferred number of hours	All
UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS		
9A	Underemployment status	7
9B	Whether looking and/or available	4,5,6
9C	Whether available and/or looking	4,5,6
10	Full-time or part-time status	All
11	Whether fully employed	All
12	Status in employment	All
13	Number of hours worked in the reference week	4,5,6,7
15	Duration of current period of insufficient work	4,5,6,7
16A	Level of highest educational attainment	4,5,6,7
16B	Level of highest non-school qualification	4,5,6,7
16C	Highest year of school completed	4,5,6,7
16D	Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia	4,5,6,7
17	Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job	4,5,6,7
18	Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job	4,5,6,7
19	Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours	4,5,6,7
20	Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours	4,5,6,7
21	All steps taken to find work with more hours in the last four weeks	4,5,6
22	Whether registered with Centrelink	4,5,6
23	Preferred number of extra weekly hours	4,5,6
24	Main difficulty in finding work with more hours	4,5,6
25	Weekly hours usually worked	4,5,6
26	Preferred total number of weekly hours	4,5,6
27	Employment type	All
JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE		
9	Number of children in family aged under 15 years	All
14A	Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months	1,2,3,4
14B	Number of jobs lasting two weeks or more started in the previous 12 months	1,2,3,4
15	All steps taken to find work/attain a job	1,3,5
16	Whether looked for full-time or part-time work	1
17	Preferred number of hours	1
18	Duration of current period of unemployment	1
19	Whether has been registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	1
20A	All steps taken to find work	1
20B	Active steps taken to find work	1
20C	Active steps taken to find work and whether has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider	1
20D	Whether has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider	All
21A	Number of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment	1
21B	Whether turned down job offers (in current period of unemployment)	1
21C	All reasons for turning down job offers (in current period of unemployment)	1
21D	Main reason for turning down job offers (in current period of unemployment)	1
22A	All difficulties in finding work	1
22B	Main difficulty in finding work	1
23	Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months	1
24	Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months	1
25	Whether had ever worked for two weeks or more	1
26	Status in employment of last job	1
27	Occupation of last job	1
28	Industry of last job	1
29	Whether worked full-time or part-time in last job	1
30	Duration of last job	1
31	Reason for ceasing last job	1
32	Whether had job to go to lasting two weeks or more	1
33	Status in employment in current job	2,3,4
34	Employment type in main job	2,3,4,5
35	Employment type in current job	2,3,4
36	Month started current job (February 2013-February 2014)	2,3,4
37	Duration of looking for work before current job	2,3,4
38	Occupation of current job	2,3,4
39	Full-time or part-time status of current employment	2,3,4,5
40	Whether preferred to work more hours than usually worked	2,3,4

41	Whether had paid leave entitlements in current job	3
42	Whether entitled to paid sick leave in current job	3
43	Whether entitled to paid holiday leave in current job	3
44	Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more	2,3,4
45	All steps taken to attain a job	3
46	Whether job seeker approached employer	3
47	Whether had prior knowledge that current job was available	3
48	Role of Job Services Australia in job attainment	3
49	Whether considered starting or purchasing a business in the last 12 months	1,3,5
50	Reasons for not starting, purchasing or continuing with a business in the last 12 months	1,3,5
51	Whether started or purchased a business	4
52	Reasons for starting or purchasing a business	4
52A	Main reason for starting or purchasing a business	4
53	All steps taken to find work in the previous 12 months	5
54	Reasons for looking for other work while still employed	5
55A	All difficulties in getting another job	5
55B	Main difficulty in getting another job	5

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

Statistics in the Persons Not In the Labour Force (PNILF), Underemployed Workers (UEW) and Job Search Experience (JSE) release present data on the characteristics and labour market experiences of persons not in the labour force, underemployed workers, unemployed persons, employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months and persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months. Information is presented for key populations of interest by demographic and labour market characteristics.

PNILF are people who are neither employed nor unemployed in a particular reference period. They can be divided into two groups, those with marginal attachment to the labour force and those without marginal attachment to the labour force.

Persons are considered marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- want to work and are actively looking for work but are not available to start work in the reference week; or
- want to work and are not actively looking for work but are available to start work within four weeks.

Persons are considered not marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- did not want to work; or
- want to work, but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks; or
- were permanently unable to work.

Numbers derived from Persons Not In the Labour Force Survey contribute to measures of the Extended labour force underutilisation rate.

UEW are employed people who would prefer and are available for more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- Part-time workers who want and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; and
- Full-time workers who worked part-time hours during the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work available). It is assumed that these people would prefer to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

The number of Underemployed Workers contributes to measuring underutilised labour resources in the economy.

The JSE survey collects information on three labour force groups aged 15 years and over:

- unemployed persons;
- employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months;
- persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months.

Due to problems experienced with the collection of education data for the 2014 Job Search Experience component of this survey, this data is not available.

This has resulted in two tables not being presented that were previously released in the JSE publication:

- Table 9 - Level of highest non-school qualification, by sex, by duration of current period of unemployment; and
- Table 12 - Level of highest non-school qualification, by sex, by duration of looking for work before current job.

The data item Level of highest non-school qualification presented in Tables 1, 3 and 10 of JSE publications is also not available from this survey.

Education questions will not be asked in the new Participation, Job Search and Mobility survey (cat. no. 6226.0), instead have been collected as part of the LFS from July 2014.

TIMELINESS

Statistics in this release are compiled from the Persons Not In the Labour Force (PNILF), Underemployed Workers (UEW) and Job Search Experience (JSE) survey that was conducted throughout Australia in February 2014 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Care should be taken when comparing the estimates for PNILF, UEW and JSE with previous

years as PNILF and UEW were previously collected in September, and JSE was previously collected in July. There is potential seasonal variations in the experiences of some of these groups.

ACCURACY

Estimates from this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the size of the sampling error affecting an estimate, i.e. the error introduced by basing estimates on a sample of the population rather than the full population. Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur due to imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data.

This publication was designed primarily to provide estimates at the Australia level. Broad estimates are available for state/territory and/or capital city/balance. Users should exercise caution when using estimates at this level because of the presence of high sampling errors. RSEs are available for estimates in the Technical Note of the publication.

There is some overlap in the populations - some people will go through UEW and JSE (employed and worked less than 35 hours in the reference week). People who are not in the labour force will only go through PNILF, while unemployed people, and employed people who usually work 35 hours or more per week, and were not underemployed in the reference week, will only go through JSE.

Care should be taken when comparing the estimates for PNILF, UEW and JSE with previous years as PNILF and UEW were previously collected in September, and JSE was previously collected in July. There is potential seasonal variations in the experiences of some of these groups.

COHERENCE

The ABS has combined the seven regular labour supplementary surveys into two surveys - the Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSM) survey conducted in February each year from 2015 and the Characteristics of Employees (COE) survey conducted each August from 2014.

This survey is an interim collection combining three of the four surveys that form the PJSM survey that were not previously collected in February to provide a bridge to the fully combined PJSM survey. The fourth survey included in the PJSM survey is Labour Mobility which was last run in February 2013.

The PJSM survey will provide information on unemployment, underemployment, labour force participation, job change and job search in the Australian labour market.

The new PJSM supplementary survey integrates key elements of the Labour Mobility, Job Search Experience (JSE), Underemployed Workers (UEW) and Persons Not in the Labour Force (PNILF) surveys. The Labour Mobility survey was run for the last time in February 2013 and the other three surveys were run for the last time in their traditional form in February 2014 before being integrated in February 2015.

PJSM will describe some of the key features and labour market experiences of the economically active population as well as those not in the labour force, and provide insight into:

- job change;
- job mobility;
- job search;
- participation and increasing participation;
- underemployment; and
- marginal attachment.

Combining this range of topics into a single survey and conducting it in a LFS quarter month will enable comprehensive analysis of labour supply and churn, while also maintaining most of the content that was previously available from the separate JSE, UEW, PNILF and Labour Mobility surveys.

INTERPRETABILITY

This publication contains tables with footnoted data to aid interpretation of the results of the survey. Detailed Explanatory Notes, a Technical Note and a Glossary are also included providing information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons Not In the Labour Force, Underemployed Workers and Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6226.0.55.001) is released electronically via the ABS website as tables in spreadsheet format. Additional data may be available on request (subject to data quality). Full details of data items for this survey are available from the Downloads tabs in Excel spreadsheets, as Data Cube 1 - PNILF 2014 Data Items List, Data Cube 2 - UEW 2014 Data Items List and Data Cube 3 - JSE 2014 Data Items List. Note that detailed data can be subject to high relative standard errors, and in some cases, may result in data being confidentialised.

For further information about these or related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Centre on 1300 135 070 or contact Labour Force and Supplementary Survey Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

Quality Declaration - Relevance

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Employed

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for fewer than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the

- reference week and received pay for some or all of the four-week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Unemployed

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Marginal attachment to the Labour Force

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

Actively looking for work

People who were taking active steps to find work. Active steps comprise:

- writing, telephoning or applying to an employer for work;
- answering an advertisement for a job;
- checking noticeboards;
- being registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker;
- checking or registering with any other employment agency;
- advertising or tendering for work; and
- contacting friends or relatives.

Availability to start work within four weeks

Refers to whether people were available to start work within four weeks or, for people with children aged 12 years and under, whether they could start work within four weeks if suitable child care was available.

UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS

Employed

All persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for fewer than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four-week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Full-time workers

Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) or those who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Part-time workers

Employed people who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work during the reference week.

JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE

Unemployed

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and: had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Employed persons

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four-week period to the end of

- the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Quality Declaration - Coherence

Key changes made to Persons Not in the Labour Force, Underemployed Workers and Job Search Experience Surveys include:

REVISION OF POPULATION BENCHMARKS

The Labour Force Survey estimates and estimates from the supplementary surveys, are calculated in such a way as to sum to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are based on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. Generally, revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS following the final rebasing of population estimates to the latest five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, or when the need arises. However, the estimates from the supplementary surveys are not normally revised to reflect the latest benchmarks.

Changes to the LFS population benchmarks impact primarily on the magnitude of the Labour Force Survey estimates (i.e. employment and unemployment) that are directly related to the underlying size of the population. For more details on population benchmarks, see the Explanatory Notes in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), and for details about the revisions made, see the article in the January 2014 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and the article in the November 2012 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

From January 2014, Labour Force Estimates have been compiled using population benchmarks based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. At the time of publication, this issue's estimates are comparable with the published labour force estimates for February 2014.

COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Care should be taken when comparing the estimates for PNILF, UEW and JSE with previous years as PNILF and UEW were previously collected in September, and JSE was previously collected in July. Collection of data from this combined survey was undertaken in February.

From December 2012 to April 2013, the ABS conducted a trial of online data collection for the LFS including the supplementary surveys. Respondents in one rotation group (i.e. one-eighth of the survey sample) were offered the option of self completing their survey questionnaire online instead of via face-to-face or telephone interview. From May 2013, the ABS expanded the offer of online collection to each new incoming rotation group. For more information see the article in the April 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0). No statistical impact has been identified to date.

Comparability with previous Persons Not In the Labour Force surveys

Persons Not in the Labour Force Surveys conducted up to and including September 1987 included all people aged 15 years and over. From September 1988 to September 2004, the survey excluded all people aged 70 years and over.

The scope of the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey was expanded in September 2005 to include all people aged 15 years and over. This change resulted in about 1.6 million extra people coming within the scope of this survey. Users need to exercise caution when comparing the estimates prior to 2005 with subsequent years. Direct comparisons should only be made where the same age ranges can be applied.

From September 2006, estimates of the number of people not in the labour force because they were caring for children include people whose youngest child was aged 12 years and under. Previously, questions relating to the care of children were only asked of people with children aged 11 years and under. This change was made to ensure consistency with other ABS surveys. Users need to exercise care when comparing the estimates in PNILF table 9 of this publication with publications prior to September 2006.

Following a review of the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey, a number of changes were implemented in the 2007 cycle. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 with previous years data.

Between September 2001 and September 2006, people who reported in the LFS that they were Permanently not intending to work were not asked questions about wanting to work and looking for work in the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey. As such, these people were classified as Did not want to work. It is likely, however, that if they had been asked these questions, then some of these people may have been classified differently and may have been included in one of the Wanted to work categories. From September 2007, people who specified that they were Permanently not intending to work were asked questions about wanting to work and looking for work. As a result of this change, there has been a break in time series. People who reported that they were permanently unable to work are not asked questions about wanting to work or looking for work. For these people, information is obtained about their last job and their main activity.

Prior to September 2007, the data items, All reasons for not actively looking for work, Main reason for not actively looking for work and Main reason not available to start work within four weeks included the category Own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy. From September 2007, this category has been split into three separate categories: Own short-term illness or injury, Own long-term health condition or disability and Pregnancy.

Prior to September 2007, the data items, Reason for ceasing last job and Main activity when not in the labour force included the categories Own ill-health or injury and Own disability or handicap. From September 2007, these categories were renamed to ensure they were consistent with those in other data items and have been collected as Own short-term illness or injury and Own long-term health condition or disability, respectively. While the way interviewers were instructed to code the responses to the relevant categories did not conceptually change, the renaming has caused a break in time series.

From September 2007, a new data item, All reasons not available to start work within four weeks, has been collected in addition to Main reason not available to start work within four weeks.

Prior to September 2008, the data item Main activity when not in the labour force included

the category Home duties or caring for children. From September 2008, this category has been split into two separate categories, Home duties and Caring for children. Care should be taken in interpreting the data in these categories because some people with young children indicated that Home duties was their main activity when not in the labour force, rather than Caring for children.

From September 2009, a new response category, Believes ill-health or disability discourages employers, has been included in the data items Main reason not actively looking for work and All reasons not actively looking for work.

From September 2009, Believes ill-health or disability discourages employers and with No jobs in suitable hours are included with other responses to derive the population group Discouraged job seekers. Prior to September 2009, No jobs in suitable hours was included in the category Other. As a result of this change, there is a break in time series and users need to exercise care when comparing estimates from 2009 with previous years data.

From September 2009, the method used to determine whether a respondent prefers full-time or part-time work changed. In 2009, respondents were asked the number of hours they would prefer to work, whereas in previous years, they were asked whether they would prefer to work full-time or part-time. A new data item Preferred number of hours is available. Both data items apply only to people who intend to enter the labour force in the next 12 months. As a result of this change, there is a break in time series and users need to exercise care when comparing the estimates in PNILF table 5 of this publication with publications prior to September 2009.

Comparability with previous Underemployed Workers surveys

In September 2008, there was a substantial increase in the number of part-time workers who preferred more hours and in underemployed workers. This was due to a change in the question being asked of part-time workers. From September 2008, part-time workers were asked "Would you prefer to work more hours than you usually work?". In previous surveys part-time workers were asked "Would you prefer a job in which you worked more hours a week?". The question was altered to be consistent with the LFS and is now broader and more inclusive of people's situations as it relates to a preference for more hours of work.

In 2008, an additional 115,800 people were classified as part-time workers who preferred more hours and an additional 131,500 people were classified as underemployed workers. Users need to exercise care when comparing the number of part-time workers who preferred more hours and unemployed workers from 2008 onwards with previous releases because of this break in the series.

From July 2004, a change was made to the category Considered too young or too old by employers for the items All difficulties in finding work with more hours and Main difficulty in finding work with more hours. The category has been split into Considered too young by employers and Considered too old by employers.

Comparability with previous Job Search Experience surveys

From July 2004, a change was made to the category Considered too young or too old by employers for the data items All difficulties in finding work and Main difficulty in finding work. The category has been split into Considered too young by employers and Considered too old by employers. Data for Considered too young by employers are not published separately in all relevant tables, but are available on request.

The JSE supplementary survey was redesigned in 2011 to broaden the scope of existing JSE populations by introducing two new population groups:

- Owner managers who started their current business in the previous 12 months; and
- Persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months.

In conjunction with these changes, a number of additional data items are now presented in this publication and/or available on request. For more information see Appendix 1: Job Search Experience Survey Redesign in the July 2011 edition of Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0).

For the July 2013 survey, all data was collected from any responsible adult (ARA) in the household at the time of interview. The ARA responded on behalf of all people in the household who had taken steps to find work. Prior to 2013, information about job search experience and steps taken to find work was obtained via a personal interview with each relevant person in the household.

Data Quality (Technical Note)

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

INTRODUCTION

1 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the SE model, which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

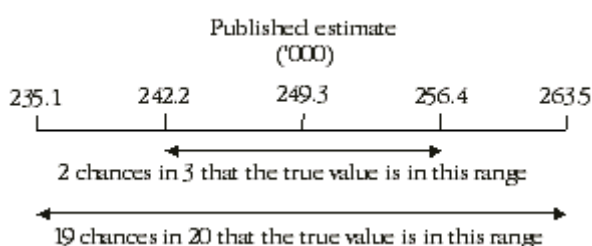
CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

3 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons, taken from Job Search Experience, is as follows. JSE table 3 shows that 249,300 unemployed

females were looking for full-time work. Since this estimate is between 200,000 and 300,000, table T2 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 6,500 and 7,700 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 6,500 + \left(\left(\frac{249,300 - 200,000}{300,000 - 200,000} \right) \times (7,700 - 6,500) \right) \\
 &= 7,100 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

4 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 242,200 to 256,400 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 235,100 to 263,500. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



5 In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.2), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%. Table T3 presents the levels at which estimates have RSEs of 25% and 50%.

MEANS AND MEDIANS

6 The RSEs of means and medians are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the mean or median (see table T2) and then multiplying the resulting number by the following factors for Australian estimates:

- For JSE
 - mean duration of unemployment: 1.6
 - median duration of unemployment: 2.5
- For UEW
 - Mean duration of insufficient work: 1.6
 - Median duration of insufficient work: 2.5
 - Mean preferred number of extra hours: 0.7

7 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. JSE table 4 shows that the estimated median duration of unemployment for unemployed females in Australia was 10 weeks and shows that the number of unemployed females was

estimated as 407,600. The SE of 407,600 can be calculated from table T2 (by interpolation) as 8,700. To convert this to an RSE express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or $8,700/407,600 = 2.1\%$.

8 The RSE of the estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed females is calculated by multiplying this number (2.1%) by the appropriate factor shown in paragraph 6 (in this case 2.5): $2.1 \times 2.5 = 5.3\%$. The SE of this estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed females is therefore 5.3% of 10 weeks, i.e. approximately one week. Therefore, there are two chances in three that the median duration of unemployment for females that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 9 to 11 weeks and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 8 weeks to 12 weeks.

9 Table T3 represents the minimum size of estimates, based on the SE model described in paragraph 2, required to have RSEs of less than 25% and 50% respectively. For example, an estimate of median duration of unemployment for Australia based on less than 35,600 persons will have an RSE of at least 25%, and an estimate of median duration of unemployment for Australia based on less than 12,800 will have an RSE of at least 50%. For all other estimates, (i.e. those estimates based purely on number of persons in a specific category), an estimate of less than 8,800 for the Australian total will have an RSE of at least 25% and an estimate of less than 2,300 will have an RSE of at least 50%.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

10 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y:

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

11 Considering the example from paragraph 3, of the 249,300 unemployed females who were looking for full-time work, 51,100 or 20.5% had been unemployed for one year or more. The SE of 51,100 may be calculated by interpolation as 4,000. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $4,000/51,100 = 7.8\%$. The SE for 249,300 was calculated previously as 7,100, which converted to an RSE is $7,100/249,300 = 2.8\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(7.8)^2 - (2.8)^2} = 7.3\%$$

12 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of unemployed females looking for full-time work who had been unemployed for one year or more is 1.5 percentage points ($=20.5/100 \times 7.3$). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of unemployed females looking for full-time work who have been unemployed for one year or more is between 19.0% and 22.0% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 17.5% to 23.5%.

DIFFERENCES

13 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the

relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

14 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES (PNILF)

Size of Estimate (persons)	NSW no.	Vic. no.	Qld. no.	SA no.	WA no.	Tas. no.	NT no.	ACT no.	SE no.	RSE %
100	180	150	200	170	170	110	80	120	140	140.0
200	300	230	330	250	260	160	110	210	240	120.0
300	390	290	440	310	330	200	140	270	320	106.7
500	530	400	600	400	440	250	170	370	460	92.0
700	650	480	730	470	520	290	200	430	580	82.9
1,000	800	580	900	560	620	340	240	500	730	73.0
1,500	990	710	1 120	670	760	400	300	580	940	62.7
2,000	1 150	820	1 300	760	860	440	340	630	1 120	56.0
2,500	1 300	900	1 450	850	950	450	400	650	1 250	50.0
3,000	1 400	1 000	1 600	900	1 050	500	400	700	1 400	46.7
3,500	1 500	1 050	1 700	950	1 100	550	450	750	1 500	42.9
4,000	1 600	1 150	1 800	1 000	1 150	550	500	750	1 650	41.3
5,000	1 800	1 250	2 000	1 100	1 250	600	600	850	1 800	36.0
7,000	2 100	1 450	2 300	1 250	1 450	700	750	1 000	2 150	30.7
10,000	2 400	1 650	2 650	1 400	1 600	850	1 000	1 300	2 500	25.0
15,000	2 800	1 950	3 050	1 650	1 900	1 050	1 450	1 700	3 000	20.0
20,000	3 150	2 150	3 350	1 900	2 150	1 200	1 850	2 000	3 350	16.8
30,000	3 600	2 500	3 900	2 350	2 700	1 500	2 500	2 450	3 850	12.8
40,000	4 000	2 750	4 400	2 750	3 200	1 750	3 100	2 750	4 250	10.6
50,000	4 350	3 000	4 850	3 100	3 650	1 950	3 600	2 950	4 600	9.2
100,000	6 050	4 350	7 150	4 450	5 350	2 700	5 650	3 350	6 050	6.1
150,000	7 700	5 600	9 050	5 350	6 600	3 200	7 100	3 350	7 250	4.8
200,000	9 200	6 650	10 600	6 050	7 600	3 600	..	..	8 300	4.2
300,000	11 600	8 450	13 050	7 100	9 100	4 200	..	..	10 100	3.4
500,000	15 000	11 350	16 500	8 550	11 300	5 000	..	..	13 200	2.6
1,000,000	20 050	16 750	21 650	10 600	14 600	..	..	..	19 550	2.0
2,000,000	24 950	24 200	26 850	12 650	18 250	..	..	..	28 300	1.4
5,000,000	30 000	38 550	32 900	..	..	..	..	..	40 800	0.8
10,000,000	31 800	53 850	..	..	..	..	..	..	49 000	0.5
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52 550	0.4

.. not applicable

T2 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES (UEW/JSE)

Size of Estimate (persons)	NSW no.	Vic. no.	Qld. no.	SA no.	WA no.	Tas. no.	NT no.	ACT no.	SE no.	RSE %
100	360	250	250	190	240	110	50	120	130	130.0
200	480	320	360	260	320	150	80	200	220	110.0
300	570	380	440	310	380	190	100	250	310	103.3
500	700	470	560	380	460	230	130	320	440	88.0
700	810	530	650	430	530	270	150	360	560	80.0
1,000	930	610	760	490	610	310	180	400	700	70.0

1,500	1 100	710	900	580	710	350	210	430	900	60.0
2,000	1 230	800	1 010	640	790	390	230	460	1 070	53.5
2,500	1 350	850	1 100	700	850	400	250	500	1 200	48.0
3,000	1 450	950	1 200	750	900	450	250	500	1 350	45.0
3,500	1 550	1 000	1 250	800	1 000	450	250	550	1 450	41.4
4,000	1 600	1 050	1 300	850	1 050	500	300	550	1 550	38.8
5,000	1 750	1 150	1 400	900	1 100	500	300	600	1 700	34.0
7,000	2 000	1 300	1 600	1 000	1 250	600	400	700	2 000	28.6
10,000	2 300	1 450	1 800	1 150	1 450	700	500	800	2 300	23.0
15,000	2 650	1 700	2 000	1 300	1 650	850	650	1 000	2 700	18.0
20,000	2 950	1 900	2 200	1 450	1 850	950	850	1 150	3 000	15.0
30,000	3 400	2 200	2 500	1 700	2 100	1 250	1 150	1 500	3 350	11.2
40,000	3 800	2 400	2 800	1 950	2 350	1 450	1 500	1 750	3 650	9.1
50,000	4 100	2 600	3 050	2 200	2 550	1 650	1 800	2 000	3 950	7.9
100,000	5 200	3 450	4 200	3 300	3 750	2 400	3 100	2 650	4 950	5.0
150,000	6 100	4 150	5 150	4 250	4 950	2 850	4 250	3 000	5 800	3.9
200,000	7 050	4 850	6 000	4 950	5 950	3 150	5 300	3 150	6 500	3.3
300,000	8 850	6 250	7 650	6 100	7 500	3 650	7 200	3 300	7 700	2.6
500,000	12 400	8 650	10 300	7 650	9 550	4 200	..	3 300	9 650	1.9
1,000,000	18 400	13 150	14 700	9 750	12 150	4 800	..	..	13 600	1.4
2,000,000	24 800	19 450	19 800	11 600	14 100	..	..	..	19 750	1.0
5,000,000	31 600	31 100	26 700	13 050	14 700	..	..	..	32 950	0.7
10,000,000	33 850	42 900	31 200	..	..	..	..	..	44 000	0.4
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49 600	0.3

.. not applicable

T3 Levels at which estimates have relative standard errors of 25% and 50%(a)

	NSW no.	Vic. no.	Qld no.	SA no.	WA no.	Tas. no.	NT no.	ACTAust. no. no.
Persons not in the labour force								
RSE of 25%	9 400	5 000	10 900	4 100	5 100	1 600	900	2 700 10 100
RSE of 50%	2 700	1 300	3 300	1 200	1 500	500	300	1 000 2 600
Underemployed Workers 25% RSE								
Mean duration of insufficient work	18 300	9 800	13 000	5 800	9 400	2 500	1 200	3 000 19 200
Median duration of insufficient work	44 400	22 900	32 500	18 100	21 700	6 700	11 900	13 400 35 300
Mean preferred number of extra hours	5 300	3 100	3 800	2 000	2 900	1 000	400	1 100 5 000
All other estimates	8 600	4 200	6 100	3 000	4 200	1 400	500	1 800 8 800
Underemployed Workers 50% RSE								
Mean duration of insufficient work	6 100	3 200	4 700	2 000	3 200	900	300	1 200 6 100
Median duration of insufficient work	15 000	7 600	11 800	6 300	7 400	2 400	2 700	4 000 12 600
Mean preferred number of extra hours	1 700	1 000	1 200	600	1 000	300	100	400 1 100
All other estimates	2 800	1 400	2 000	1 000	1 400	400	100	700 2 300
Job Search Experience 25% RSE								
Mean duration of unemployment	15 300	7 500	10 100	5 000	7 400	2 200	800	3 100 18 400

Median duration of unemployment	40 600	20 300	26 700	13 900	21 200	7 900	2 600	9 100	35 600
All other estimates	8 600	4 200	6 100	3 000	4 200	1 400	500	1 800	800

Job Search Experience 50% RSE

Mean duration of unemployment	5 100	2 500	3 600	1 700	2 500	800	200	1 200	5 800
Median duration of unemployment	13 700	6 800	9 800	4 800	7 200	2 800	900	3 000	12 800
All other estimates	2 800	1 400	2 000	1 000	1 400	400	100	700	2 300

(a) Refers to the number of persons contributing to the estimate.

© Commonwealth of Australia

All data and other material produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) constitutes Commonwealth copyright administered by the ABS. The ABS reserves the right to set out the terms and conditions for the use of such material. Unless otherwise noted, all material on this website – except the ABS logo, the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and any material protected by a trade mark – is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia licence